



Memorandum

Date: July 15, 1999

To: Ecosystem Roundtable Project Amendment Subcommittee

From: Wendy Halverson Martin

Subject: Requests for Project Amendments

SUMMARY

Twenty projects have requested Level I amendments and eight projects have requested Level II amendments. Level I amendments do not require Ecosystem Roundtable action, and are included for information.

Level I Project Amendments

Project and Proponent	Change Requested			Reason for Amendment
	Budget	Scope	Time	
Cache Slough Shaded Riverine Aquatic Enhancement Project (98-B08) Reclamation District 2060	None	None	To Sept. 99 (3 months)	To allow Corps of Engineers to complete levee maintenance.
Napa River Flood Protection Project (98-B13) Napa County Land Trust	None	Change Task 4 to reflect new land transfer arrangement with DFG	None	DFG requested parcels transferred after all parcels acquired.
Discover the Flyway (98-B34) Yolo Basin Foundation	None	None	None	Redistribute funds between tasks.

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration

Level I Project Amendments

Project and Proponent	Change Requested			Reason for Amendment
	Budget	Scope	Time	
Develop Educational Workshops/Field Tours to Increase Public Awareness of the Butte Creek Watershed Issues (98-B35) CSU-Chico	None	None	None	Correct clerical error made on distribution of funds per task.
Evaluation of Increasing Tagging Levels for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead and a Demonstration Project on Mass Marketing (98-B15) Northwest Marine Technology Inc.	None	None	To Aug 99 (6 months)	Unexpected difficulties in coordinating tagging databases of various agencies.
Anadromous Fish Screen Project (98-B01) Richter Brothers	None	None	To Aug 99 (10 months)	Request more time to review alternative small diversion screen designs.
Watershed Restoration Program (98-E02) Southern Sonoma County Resources Conservation District	None	None	To March 31, 2000	Unanticipated delays in watershed assessment of Nathanson Creek.
Napa River Watershed Stewardship (98-E01) Napa County Resources Conservation District	None	None	To Dec 31, 1999 (6 month increase)	To allow restoration and monitoring work to be done in summer and fall months.
Wilkins Slough Fish Screen (97-C01) Reclamation District 108	None	None	To Dec 31, 1999	High water levels have delayed construction.
Preventing Exotic Introductions from Ballast Water (97-C07) UC Sea Grant	None	None	To Mar 31, 2000	Difficulty in hiring personnel for project execution.
Developing a genetic baseline for San Joaquin salmon (97-C09) CA DFG	None	None	To Feb 28, 2002	Contract was not completed in time for the Fall 1998 field season. Contract was extended to enable three seasons of data collection.
Introduction of spawning gravel Tuolumne River near La Grange (97-C11) CA DFG	None	None	None	The distribution of funds in the budget between tasks has been revised due to increase permitting costs.

Level I Project Amendments

Project and Proponent	Change Requested			Reason for Amendment
	Budget	Scope	Time	
Evaluation of alternative pesticide reduction practices (97-C12) UC-Davis	None	None	None	The distribution of funds in the budget between tasks has been revised
Water quality criteria for Chlorpyrifos & Diazinon (98-C06) CA DFG	None	None	To Mar 31, 2001	Extended contract negotiations delayed project start date.
CMARP (98-C10) CA DWR	None	None	To Dec 31, 1999	To respond to comments on initial report, revising to include specific institutional structure and program cost.
Butte Creek Acquisition and Riparian Restoration (97-N06) CSU, Chico	\$1,000 (0.5% increase)	None	None	\$1,000 added to budget for DGS appraisal
Jepson Prairie Restoration (97-N10) Solano County Farmlands, Open Space Foundation	\$801 (0.3% increase)	None	None	Clerical error in original approved amount of \$244,000.
Franks Tract Restoration (97-N12) Moffatt & Nichol Engineers, DPR, DWR	None	None	1 month extension	Extended contract negotiations delayed project start date.
Implementing program to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds (97-N20) Community Alliance with Family Farmers	None	None	Extend task 1 to Jan 1999 (60 days).	Difficulty in hiring personnel for project execution.
Tuolumne River Natural Resources Program (98-B40) City of Modesto	10,555 (23% increase)	None	None	Arithmetic error made during project selection process.

Eight projects have requested Level II project amendments. These amendments require Ecosystem Roundtable action.

Level II Project Amendments

Project and Proponent	Change Requested			Reason for Amendment
	Budget	Scope	Time	
Evaluation of Selenium Sources, Levels, and Consequences in the Delta (97-B07) US Geological Survey	\$38,117 (2.4% increase)	None	None	USGS administrative charges for subcontracting with three universities.
Grayson River Ranch Perpetual Easement and Restoration (98-F07) East Stanislaus Resources Conservation District	None	Acquire additional easements in same area	None	Greater than anticipated funding provided by AFRP and favorable easement acquisition costs.
San Joaquin River NWR Riparian Habitat Protection and Floodplain Restoration Project (97-B04) US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$300,000 (2.8% increase)	Allow Riley Slough flood plain corridor to be purchased in fee or easement.	To March 2000 (20 months)	Greater than anticipated site clean-up costs, costs of NEPA requirements and land acquisition negotiations, and planning, appraisal, title policy, survey and administrative costs.
Liberty Island Acquisition (97-B03) US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$179,000 (2.0% increase; \$349,000 cumulative increase, 3.9% cumulative increase)	Add Trust for Public Land and other scope increase	To Dec 1999 (2 months, cumulative 8 months)	Additional work identified in public planning process, contaminants report, survey, dual closing and title costs, a federally-mandated non-profit audit, direct salary and benefit costs for Trust for Public Land and Service associated with the acquisition.
Engineering Investigation of Anadromous Fish Passage in Upper Battle Creek (98-B16 & 97-M02) CA Department of Water Resources	None	Change map datum, collect additional survey data and perform final design at certain fish screen and ladders.	To June 2001	Due to recent decisions made on the overall restoration plan for Battle Creek
Stone Lakes NWR Land Acquisitions (98-F12) US Fish and Wildlife Service	None	Allow the Service the flexibility to acquire either of two parcels in proposal.	To March 2000	Landowner of selected parcel subsequently entered into agreement to sell parcel as a mitigation bank.

Level II Project Amendments

Project and Proponent	Change Requested			Reason for Amendment
	Budget	Scope	Time	
Stanislaus River Chinook Salmon Habitat Restoration Action, Wilms Site (97-C10 & 98-F05) CA Department of Fish and Game	(\$1,037,899) & (\$1,037,899)	Cancel project	None	Project stopped by lack of access to property.
Virtual Science Center (98-B37) Delta Science Center	(\$42,000)	Cancel project	None	Applicant failed to complete federal contracting requirements.

ACTION

Roundtable Subcommittee members and Agency Liaisons are requested to consider the Level II amendments consistent with the contract amendment process (attached). The Level I amendments do not require Ecosystem Roundtable nor Agency Liaison action, but are included for information.

DISCUSSION

The contract amendment process provides for three levels of amendment depending on the nature and extent of the proposed change (budget, time, or scope). The process for these amendments is discussed on the attached page.

Project Amendments

Eight projects have requested project amendments requiring Ecosystem Roundtable subcommittee action, as follows:

1. Evaluation of Selenium Sources, Levels, and Consequences in the Delta (Project 97-B07)

Issue: In December 1997, CALFED approved \$1,588,709 for this important study by the US Geological Survey. In their proposal, the USGS requested a collaborative project with separate CALFED contracts with the three other project participants. However, CALFED stipulated that USGS act as project manager. One unanticipated task of project management is disbursement of funds. The USGS is assessing 3.6% of the gross funds plus \$2200 per contract. That assessment is considerably less than the standard rate of 34.4% of gross funds. The lowered assessment was approved as a step to facilitate USGS contributions to the CALFED Program. The USGS has requested an additional \$38,117 for additional services of project administration that were not included in the proposal as submitted to CALFED.

Staff Recommendation: This cost amendment request is reasonable since agency overhead is a cost to the agency performing the work. Staff recommends granting the amendment.

2. Grayson River Ranch Perpetual Easement and Restoration (Project 98-F07)

Issue: In September 1998, CALFED approved \$732,000 for the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements and habitat restoration for property adjacent to 1.2 miles of the Tuolumne River, 5.1 miles upstream of the confluence with the San Joaquin River. NRCS is proposing to expand the project scope to include purchase of additional conservation easements in the same area. This opportunity is available because AFRP provided greater than anticipated funding and the costs for easement acquisition are lower than anticipated.

Staff Recommendation: This scope increase allows the purchase of additional conservation easements at no additional cost to the CALFED program. Staff recommends granting the amendment.

3. San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge Riparian Habitat Protection and Floodplain Restoration Project (Project 97-B04)

Issue: In December 1997, CALFED approved \$10,647,000 for acquisition and restoration of 6,169 acres of fish and wildlife habitat on and adjacent to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. US Fish and Wildlife Service requests a \$300,000 (2.8%) increase due to greater than anticipated site clean-up costs (\$75,000) for demolition and removal of a concrete dairy barn on the Hagemann property; increased costs of NEPA requirements and land acquisition negotiations (\$75,000), and planning, appraisal, title policy, survey and administrative costs (\$150,000).

Staff Recommendation: The amendment is justified due to the difficulty determining these costs during the proposal preparation. Staff recommends granting the amendment.

4. Liberty Island Acquisition (Project 97-B03)

Issue: In December 1997, CALFED approved \$8,577,000 for the acquisition of Liberty Island by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This acquisition allows the Service to permanently protect and restore approximately 4,760 acres of important Delta habitat for the benefit of winter-run chinook salmon, Delta smelt, Sacramento splittail, and other native fishery resources. It will also protect riparian corridors, and wetlands that support water-associated birds, neotropical migrants, and other species. In January 1999, the Ecosystem Roundtable approved a budget increase of \$170,000 and a time extension to October 31, 1999. Currently, the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed, and CALFED has approved, using the Trust for Public Land (a non-profit organization) as a temporary recipient of this property to expedite this acquisition and avoid losing the purchase option and potential litigation. In addition, scope and costs have increased due to additional work identified in public planning process, contaminants report, survey, dual closing and title costs, a federally-mandated non-profit audit, and direct salary and benefit costs for Trust for Public Land and Service associated with the acquisition.

Staff Recommendation: The amendment is justified due to the difficulty determining these costs during the proposal preparation. Staff recommends granting amendment.

5. Engineering Investigation of Anadromous Fish Passage in Upper Battle Creek (Project 98-B16 and 97-M02)

Issue: In September 1998, CALFED approved \$790,000 for a planning investigation for fish passage for Battle Creek. The Department of Water Resources has requested a change in scope and a time extension to accommodate recent decisions on the overall restoration plan for Battle Creek. DWR requests approval of a new scope of work to change map datum, collect certain additional survey data, and perform final design at certain fish screen and ladder locations.

Staff Recommendation: The amendment is justified due to the changing scope of the overall restoration plan for Battle Creek. Staff recommends granting amendment.

6. Stone Lakes NWR Land Acquisitions (98-F12)

Issue: In August 1998, CALFED approved \$1,900,000 for the acquisition of land at the Stone Lakes NWR. This acquisition would permanently protect and restore important Delta smelt habitat, vernal pool species, and help improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem and the Cosumnes and Mokelumne rivers flood plains. The proposal identified two parcels for a total of \$3,346,700, however the actual award was for one only parcel. The Fish and Wildlife Service offered to purchase that parcel but the seller subsequently entered into an agreement to sell their parcel for a mitigation bank. The purchaser has indicated that they may wish to sell the parcel to the Service for long-term management. The Service is also close to finalizing negotiations to acquire the other parcel included in the proposal. The Service is requesting that the agreement be amended to allow the Service the flexibility to acquire either parcel with no change in the approved award of \$1,900,000 and the completion date for the project be amended to March 31, 2000.

Staff Recommendation: The amendment is justified due to the changing conditions during the property acquisition process. Staff recommends granting the amendment.

7. Stanislaus River Chinook Salmon Habitat Restoration Action, Wilms Site (97-C10 & 98-F05)

Issue: CALFED approved \$2,075,798 for the restoration of the Wilms site along the Merced River. Property owner refused access to property and project can not proceed.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends canceling project.

8. Virtual Science Center (98-B37)

Issue: In 1997, CALFED approved \$42,000 to the Delta Science Center. Contractor has ignored repeated written requests for contract documents.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends canceling project.